



FORGOTTEN ANIMALS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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What a year... 2020 has been very hard on everyone and we hope that every member of our amazing animal-loving community and their loved ones managed to stay safe and healthy. We are incredibly grateful for the support we received during these uncertain times, despite the hardship. It helped us continue working toward the mission of saving animals and improving their plight throughout Russia and the neighbouring countries. Over the past year, we managed to help thousands and achieve crucial progress for companion, wild and farm animals. Please, enjoy their stories and photos below and thank you so much for being with us. The end of 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of Forgotten Animals and we cannot wait to share more exciting news and achievements with you in the upcoming year!

*Anna,
founder, Forgotten Animals*

WILD ANIMALS: MORE SAVED LIVES AND CRUCIAL PROGRESS



Our Orphaned Bear Cub Rescue and Rehabilitation Programme continued its course, despite the hardships of this year. UTYOS - the unique wildlife rehabilitation centre, located in the wild Russian forest, is a perfect location to rehabilitate wild animals and give them a chance to go back to being wild again.



In 2020, winter did not arrive until early December (usually UTYOS gets its first snow and frost in October), which means that the cubs delayed their “beauty sleep” by over 2 months. On the right you can see one of the curious little ones wide awake outside his winter bedroom. In December, the cubs, all grown and fattened up, finally went into winter hibernation in their warm comfy dens. In Spring 2021, after necessary veterinary controls, they will be released into their natural forest habitat and more baby orphans will be rescued to take their place. Thank you, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, for supporting this project.

Make sure you follow us on social media, so that you don't miss the release video and many more inspiring and touching stories!

Russia's first Wild Animal Sanctuary: one step away!

As you know, we have been preparing this project for a couple of years now. In 2020 we've been busy navigating Russian bureaucracy and sourcing the right land for the country's **first true Wildlife Sanctuary**. It will have nature-like habitats instead of cages and will offer the best possible living conditions to wild animals, who spent their lives in bad captivity or are too injured or habituated to be able to survive on their own in the wild.

We are happy to report that we have finally partnered with another big international organisation on this project and are in the very final steps of securing the land, approvals and permits to be able to build on the selected plot. It has taken us a long time to negotiate with the government to make this possible. Of course, the pandemic didn't help, considerably slowing things down, but we are very close and can't wait to announce our new partnership and share details soon!



Stay tuned for more exciting news on this front.



COMPANION ANIMALS: SECOND CHANCE FOR THOUSANDS OF CATS AND DOGS

Emergency Covid-19 Shelter Relief Programme

Like the rest of the world, Russia has been hit very hard by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. As a result, many people lost their jobs and income and had to surrender or chose to abandon their pets, as they couldn't afford to keep them any longer. Loss of income also means nearly zero donations for shelters and volunteers rescuing animals off the streets and saving their lives every day.

Public gatherings ban prevented shelters from being able to fundraise in person and hold food banks, which are normally two of their major sources of income.

Their work became harder, while their modest resources shrank even further.

Thanks to our Emergency Relief Programme, thousands of animals in 16 shelters were fed, kept off freezing streets and many more were rescued. Vet bills were paid while shelters avoided the risk of shutting down and their animals losing their warm home again.



Our gratitude goes to The Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust, Lush Charity Pot, and all our supporters for contributing to the Relief Programme and helping us save many lives and prevent suffering!



Neutering: saving lives while creating a long-term impact

It's not a secret, that we invest a lot of efforts and available resources into promoting and sponsoring neutering. It educates communities and raises awareness of its benefits, not only to the very animals involved but also heavily contributes to reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs on the streets and in struggling shelters. Veterinary services in Russia are very expensive, especially when compared to the low average income and most owners and guardians cannot afford to sterilise their rescued companions. At the same time, people still do not fully understand the benefits of neutering and the procedure is only now becoming known. However, we get constantly asked to sponsor neutering or run a subsidized neutering project, which means our awareness efforts are bearing fruits, and we happily accept, as much as our resources allow it! In 2020, **1784 cats and dogs in 11 cities** (and their very grateful humans, who otherwise could never afford it), benefited from the procedure and are now enjoying a more serene life!



2 kind hearts and 20 second chances

While we cherish the story of every animal we help, some are so moving, they leave an especially profound mark on us. Meet Nikita and Nastya, young students with very modest means, but huge hearts. In 2017, Nikita and Nastya started to feed a stray cat Mosya. Every few months Mosya would have kittens, whom the couple would, of course, feed, as well. By 2020, there was a total of 20 cats to take care of, the couple even took out small loans to feed them. When the cats started to multiply, Nikita and

Nastya thought of neutering them, but sadly the total cost was nowhere near what they could afford.

Instead of hopelessly watching more kittens being born, they tried fundraising through social media, but nobody cared and they never got enough. However, through social media Nikita learned about our Subsidised Neutering Programme and decided to reach out to us.

We weren't running programmes in their area at that time, but this story touched us so much, we couldn't turn them away. We talked to our partner veterinary clinic and sponsored the procedure for the whole feline family. After the recovery, Nikita and Nastya found a new home for some of the cats (which was a lot easier after they were neutered!), while other mousers stayed with Nikita and Nastya, who adopted them.



Stories like this motivate us to keep doing what we do and to never give up. Thank you, Nikita and Nastya, for being such a splendid example and a hope for a more compassionate and responsible future!



Success: 10% less unwanted puppies in Petrozavodsk!

Despite the ongoing pandemic, our amazing veterinary surgeons do not sit still. **1250** more dogs were spayed and neutered in 2020 in Petrozavodsk through our massive ongoing project supported by Dogs Trust Worldwide, reaching the total of **4,196** dogs helped since the project started!

Besides proving subsidized neutering to dogs, whose owners cannot afford it otherwise, the project includes a strong educational component in the form of social advertising in a range of media outlets and social media awareness campaigns.

It also includes public opinion surveys and analyses aimed at understanding the reasoning behind failing to spay companion animals to adjust promotional and awareness efforts and reach as many people as we can.



Our local team runs social media groups and pages and answers thousands of messages and calls, helping people understand the importance of neutering their pets and its correlation with the number of stray animals on the streets and in the shelters. It also offers transportation aid to those who live in remote areas and cannot bring their dogs in for surgery.

Since the start of the project, the most notable changes have been recorded in the dynamics of the shelter dog population. The number of admitted puppies has decreased: in 2017, puppies made up ~20% of the total number of dogs, whereas, in 2019-20, the number of puppies has decreased to ~10%. These results prove that we are on the right path!

We are very proud of this achievement and our local team in Petrozavodsk and grateful for the continuous trust and support provided by our long-term partners, Dogs Trust Worldwide. We look forward to continuing the project in 2021 and hoping to see even more impressive results!





SOCIAL ADVERTISING: CHANGING THE ATTITUDES, ONE POSTER AT A TIME

We are incredibly lucky to have volunteers who are not only passionate about our cause, but also multi-talented. Our own Maria designed some amazing social ads to raise awareness of various issues concerning companion and wild animals in Russia. The themes include wild animals suffering in captivity (petting zoos, dolphinariums, animal circuses), stray animals dying on the streets and lack of sterilisation that leads to it, and others. The ads are based on popular Russian songs and sayings, they immediately attract attention and make people think. Using these ads, we run various paid social media campaigns on some of the most popular social networks in Russia, precisely targeting the desired audience for each theme and ad.



The campaign ads were seen, clicked on, and shared by **45 468 people in 15 regions of Russia**. We plan to repeat this success as part of our educational and awareness efforts.

LEGISLATION: SHUTTING DOWN A PETTING ZOO AND MORE HOPE FOR ANIMALS



Our lawyer and the president of Forgotten Animals Russia has been very busy in 2020. We try to always act on reports and complaints we receive about cruelty toward animals, investigate and press charges, where possible, and as much as our time and financial resources allow us to.

This past year it included, but wasn't limited to, a dog fighting ring, exotic wildlife trade and trafficking, various animal abuse cases, consulting rescue shelters on how to avoid being evicted, rescuing, and seizing animals, using the law, and prosecuting captive facilities, that don't meet the necessary legal requirements and animal keeping standards.

Most of the legal work takes much longer than one year and many of these cases will sadly be dismissed due to ineffective legislation, lack of required evidence or simple corruption.



However, there are cases where we **succeed**, and **these victories are what keeps us going forward and never giving up!**

In 2020 it was **the closure of a horrible petting zoo** called Rio in Sochi, Russia, that happened directly due to our work on this case!

There is now **one less animal prison** with filthy cages and inadequate conditions, where animals used to suffer from constant unwanted human contact and die and we are enormously proud of this achievement!

Here's to more successful stories in 2021!

There are currently a few very **promising legislative initiatives** and plans for 2021, that, if successful, will impact animals immensely, making Russia a much kinder and a more responsible place for animals:



- a proposition of a complete ban on travelling zoos - something that the current legislation is still failing to achieve due to loopholes; we are reaching out to the promoters of this initiative within the government to consult and help as much as we can, to make this initiative a success.
- Russia is finally establishing a position of an animal inspector, something the countries like the UK already have. These volunteer-based figures will have the authority to control facilities and private owners in case of a suspected animal abuse or inadequate conditions and will be able to work with the law enforcement on seizing and re-homing animals.

The president and the lawyer of Forgotten Animals Russia, Anastasia, was one of the first to obtain the necessary credentials for becoming an officially registered animal inspector!

In 2021 we are planning to continue our work toward a ban on wild-animal circus through awareness campaigns and negotiations, hoping to share more positive news soon!

FARM ANIMALS: UNIQUE APPROACH, PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

An unprecedented for Russia project aimed at helping farm animals and kindly supported by The Centre for Effective Altruism's Animal Welfare fund, had a remarkably busy and productive year.

After months of research, analyses, feasibility studies, looking into statistical, industry and medical data, we decided to **initially focus on improving the welfare of broiler chickens and laying hens**, as we determined that, among the animals animal raised for human consumption in Russia, chickens are those that could benefit the most from our current resources and whom we can bring the most improvement to.





Russia has the 5th largest amount of farmed land animals used for human consumption in the world (about 800 M), whereas the Russian **poultry industry was ranked the 4th worldwide** in 2019.

Currently, there are over 600 poultry farms operating across Russia with over 550 million birds. Sadly, **nearly 80% are intensive farms** with hundreds of thousands to millions of animals and extremely low animal welfare standards.

At the same time, when it comes to farm animals, there is **practically zero sustainable advocacy**

along with a nearly complete lack of understanding of what welfare for farm animals means and how it impacts the product, and, ultimately, the consumer's health.

This is what we want to change by using a viable long-term approach and by partnering with analytical, medical, policymaking and industry opinion leaders and key figures of influence.

We look forward to continuing this important work in 2021 and beyond!

2020 FUNDING IN AND WHAT WE SPENT IT ON

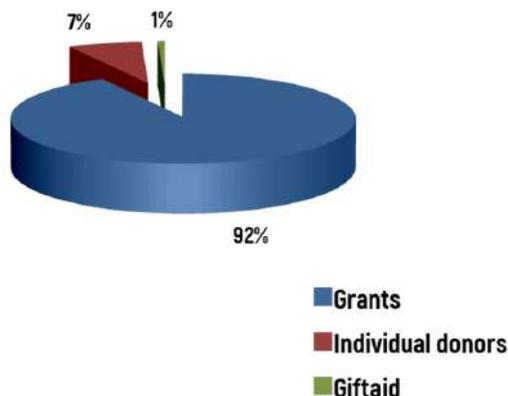
Main sources of our income are grants reserved for specific projects. We are incredibly grateful to the grant-giving organizations and foundations for their continuous trust, support, and willingness to help us improve the plight of animals in Russia and the neighbouring countries.

Individual donations and GiftAid are also very important for making our work possible. A special thank you goes to our recurring donors and supporters: **no gift is too small, and each contribution is greatly appreciated!**

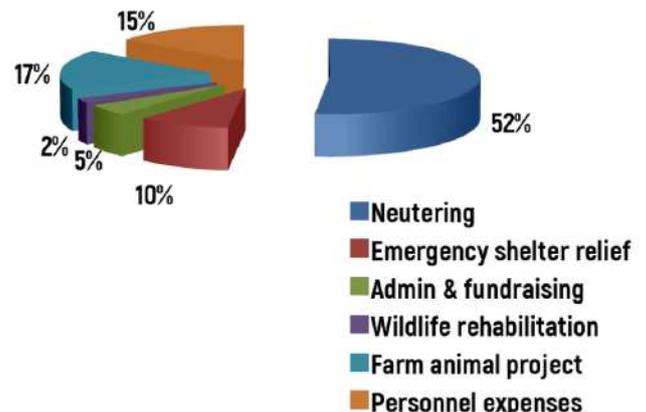
All funding received allowed us to relieve, stop or prevent animal suffering, run subsidised neutering campaigns, continue the work to help farm animal, rescue and rehabilitate wild animals, shut down bad captivity facilities and shine the light on other animal-related issues and problems, cruelty, and abuse.

Thank you, our donors, and supporters, for making our work possible.

Funding received, £ 120,076



Funding spent, £ 104,306





HOW TO SUPPORT OUR WORK



Forgotten Animals has been determined a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) public charity by the IRS of the United States. If you live in the US, your donation to Forgotten Animals is now deductible from your tax bill!

Our USA entity ID is 23045957 and our EIN is 84-4544322.

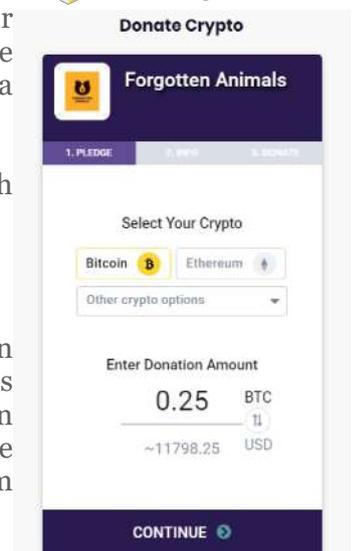
Your support is crucial for us to keep saving animals and this makes it much easier for our American friends and supporters to donate.

We are always looking for volunteers in the United States to help get exposure for our work. If you feel like it is something you can be passionate about and interested in trying, please reach out to us via [email](#).

Support our work by donating in crypto-currency

We want to stay current with the times and make supporting our work easier for our friends and donors. That is why we have partnered with **The Giving Block** - the leading platform, that helps charities receive donations in crypto-currency in a secure and transparent, yet protected manner.

You can now support us by donating in different crypto-currencies through <https://www.thegivingblock.com/donate/Forgotten-Animals>. Thank you.



GOVERNANCE IN PLACE

Our board of Trustees oversees all our financial activities and play an active role in management decisions. All projects are verified by means of receipts, photos, videos from the project leads and local volunteers and through visits by our team, when necessary. Some of the projects are run exclusively by our staff or volunteers, while other projects we are involved in, are regularly visited by Forgotten Animals team members to assess progress. All projects provide regular expense reports.

PLANS AND GOALS FOR 2021

- ♦ obtain funding to replicate our successful multi-faceted Subsidized Neutering Project in a new location;
- ♦ become the key part of the legislative landscape on farm animals and use it as a leverage to convince agricultural conglomerates to move from the intensive factory farming to more humane animal husbandry practices, reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance, harmful to both to animals and people;
- ♦ start building first habitats in Russia's first wild animal sanctuary to welcome first rescued animals;
- ♦ monitor the implementation and adherence of the national ban on traveling zoos and dolphinariums and prosecute facilities that infringe this ban and other newly established animal welfare legislation, to make sure the law is being enforced and works not only in theory, but in practice;
- ♦ use our credentials of an officially registered animal inspector to monitor potential animal abuse, get access to the cases, officially prosecute the offender and work with law enforcement on seizing animals.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

